

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 0202

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SP

SUBJ: BASE NEGOTIATIONS

1. FOLLOWING ARE COMMENTS REGARDING NEGOTIATIONS MADE IN COURSE OF LUNCH WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS BY MARQUES DE PERINAT, MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NORTH AMERICAN AND EAST ASIAN AFFAIRS.

2. PERINAT NOTED THAT ATTITUDE OF SPANISH MILITARY PARTICIPANTS HAD BEEN VERY COOPERATIVE IN NEGOTIATIONS. HE DETECTED NO SIGN OF IMPATIENCE ON THEIR PART AND SAID THAT IN EFFECT THEY HAD TOLD THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, "YOU HAVE THE LEAD AND KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING, AND WE ARE BEHIND YOU."

3. PERINAT SAID SPANISH HAD BEEN DISAPPOINTED WITH SECOND ROUND BECAUSE AFTER MADRID SESSION THEY HAD EXPECTED U.S. SIDE TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING, EVEN IF ONLY TO REJECT SPANISH POSITION OR MAKE COUNTER-PROPOSALS OF OUR OWN. INSTEAD, SPANISH NOTED IT WAS REPEAT OF BASIC U.S. POSITION AS STATED IN MADRID.

4. WITH CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS, PERINAT DISCOUNTED ANY POSSIBILITY FOR RENEWAL OF CURRENT AGREEMENT. HE SAID GOVT WOULD FALL RIGHT AWAY, CURRENT AGREEMENT WAS SO UNPOPULAR. AMERICANS SOMETIMES HAD ERRONEOUS IMPRESSION
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THAT SPANISH GOVT COULD DO WHATEVER IT WANTED, DESPITE

PUBLIC OPINION, BUT THIS NO LONGER TRUE. PERINAT SAID HE HAD WARNED EMBASSY OFFICERS SEVERAL YEARS AGO THAT IT WAS MISTAKE TO CONCLUDE THAT SPAIN A SIMPLE DICTATORSHIP AND DID NOT HAVE TO RESPOND TO PUBLIC OPINION.

5. PERINAT OPINED THAT U.S. HAD MADE UNFORTUNATE ERRORS WHERE SPANISH WERE CONCERNED, NOTABLE ON SAHARA ISSUE. HE SAID SPANISH NEGOTIATORS HAD BEEN TOLD IN WASHINGTON THAT U.S. WOULD VOTE ABSTENTION. THEN WITHIN FIVE HOUR SPAN THEY WERE INFORMED U.S. HAD CHANGED POSITION AND WOULD VOTE FOR MOROCCAN RESOLUTION, ON EXPLICIT ORDERS OF SECRETARY.

6. WITHAL, PERINAT WAS CAREFUL TO EMPHASIZE THAT SPANISH WANTED AN AGREEMENT. THIS WAS QUITE CLEAR. HE THOUGHT THAT DURING NEXT ROUND IN MADRID BOTH SIDES WOULD GET DOWN TO BASIC ISSUES AND "WE WILL KNOW WHERE WE STAND WITH EACH OTHER." EATON

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